

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 DHA-02 /091 W

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R 010530Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5822

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 4966

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, SP

SUBJECT: PALME ON THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT

REF: STOCKHOLM 4930 (NOTAL)

1. THE SWEDISH PRESS AND ORDINARY CITIZEN ALIKE HAVE BEEN  
STRUCK BY THE SHARPNESS OF PRIME MINISTER PALME'S TERMINOLOGY  
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IN CALLING THE FRANCO GOVERNMENT "SATAN'S MURDERERS" (SATANS

MORDARE) IN HIS SEPTEMBER 28 ADDRESS TO THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS. IN AN EDITORIAL COMMENT, THE CONSERVATIVE SVENSKA DAGBLADET OBSERVED THAT OTHER WESTERN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WERE EQUALLY SHARP IN CRITICIZING THE EXECUTIONS IN SPAIN "BUT IN THE QUESTION OF CHOICE OF WORDS OUR PRIME MINISTER STANDS IN A CLASS BY HIMSELF."

2. SPEAKING TO SWEDISH JOURNALISTS ON SEPTEMBER 29, PALME SAID THAT HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SPANISH REGIME CAME TO HIM SPONTANEOUSLY. PALME ADDED THAT " I SAID WHAT I THOUGHT." INTERVIEWED ABOUT HIS CHOICE OF WORDS BY RADIO SWEDEN ("OPEN CHANNEL"), PALME WAS ASKED WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE RISKY FOR A PRIME MINISTER TO IMPROVISE EPITHETS. HIS REPLY: "IT COULD BE MORE DANGEROUS IF A MINISTER OF STATE BECAME A WALKING DIPLOMATIC NOTE."

3. SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS INDICATED THEY EXPECTED SHOCK WAVES TO REVERBERATE INTERNATIONALLY, AND REFLECTED SURPRISE THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET PROTESTED. SEVERAL PAPERS OFFERED RETROSPECTIVE REVIEWS OF PALME'S PRINCIPAL CONDEMNATIONS OF FOREIGN LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT SINCE 1965. THESE INCLUDE:

- 1965 JULY 30. SPEECH AT GAVLE IN WHICH PALME FIRST CRITICIZED US ROLE IN VIETNAM AS A VAIN EFFORT "TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE WITH VIOLENCE AND MILITARY MIGHT."
- 1972 DECEMBER 23 SPEECH IN WHICH PALME COMPARED THE CHRISTMAS BOMBING OF HANOI "WITH SUCH OUTRAGES AS GUERNICA, OURADOUR, YABI JAR, KATYN, LIDICE, SHARPEVILLE AND TREBLINKA."
- 1973 SEPTEMBER 15 SPEECH IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF ALLENDE, IN WHICH PALME SAID "IT IS A TRAGEDY WHEN THE DEMANDS OF THE POOR ARE MET BY THE KNAVES AND THE WEALTHY, THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, THE SUPERPOWERS WITH THEIR ARMORED BRIGADES AND B-52'S." ON SEPTEMBER 14 PALME CONDEMNED THE CHILEAN JUNTA AS "SHAMEFUL SCOUNDRELS".
- 1975 APRIL 19 SPEECH CITING REFERENCES MADE BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK INTERIOR MINISTER TO DUBCEK AND COMMENTING "THUS SPEAK THE CREATURES (IN SWEDISH USAGE ALSO HENCHMEN AND CATTLE) OF DICTATORSHIP TO ONE ANOTHER."

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4. AFTER ANALYZING INTERNAL POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF PALME'S OUTSPOKENNESS COMPARED WITH OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS, DAGENS NYHETER ANALYST SVEN SVENSON STATES: "IT SHOULD NOT BE CONCEALED FOR A MOMENT THAT PALME'S FOREIGN POLICY VOCABULARY HAS ITS OWN INHERENT LOGIC. IF THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD ABUSE HUMAN RIGHTS HE WILL ALSO HAVE TO ROAR LOUD ENOUGH TO BE HEARD. THAT IS, IF PALME CAN ESCALATE HIS VOCABULARY STILL FURTHER. OR COULD IT BE THAT SWEDEN IS TOO SMALL A COUNTRY FOR

PALME?"  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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